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Appl. No. 10/006,246
Response to Office Action dated December 13, 2007

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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An inside-vehicle information communication method by which a passenger of a public transport vehicle utilizes a portable display device to access an information service inside the vehicle, the method comprising:

causing an information server, provided in the vehicle, to output a request for electronic ticket information to the portable display device possessed by the passenger of the vehicle, upon receipt of a request for connection from the portable display device;

causing the information server to receive the electronic ticket information, outputted from the portable display device upon receipt of the request for the electronic ticket information;

causing the information server to confirm, based on the electronic ticket information, whether the passenger has a right to use the vehicle and to allow the portable display device to access information services provided by the information server in the vehicle if the information server confirms that the passenger has the right to use the vehicle; and

causing the information server to provide information to the portable display device in response to an information request received from the portable display device.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): An inside-vehicle information communication method by which passengers of a public transport vehicle utilize portable display devices to access an information service inside the vehicle, the method comprising:

causing an information server, provided in the vehicle, to output requests for electronic ticket information to the portable display devices possessed by the passengers of the vehicle, upon receipt of requests for connection from the portable display devices;

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causing the information server to receive the electronic ticket information, outputted from the portable display devices upon receipt of the requests for the electronic ticket information;

causing the information server to confirm, based on the electronic ticket information, whether the passengers have a right to use the vehicle and to allow the portable display devices possessed by passengers confirmed to have the right to use the vehicle to access information services provided by the information server in the vehicle;

causing the information server to output requests for private information, used to specify the portable display devices, to the portable display devices that access the information services;

causing the information server to receive the private information outputted from the portable display devices upon receipt of the requests for the private information; and

causing the information server to specify the portable display devices in accordance with the private information.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The method set forth in claim 2, further comprising causing the information server to specify individual information, which is to be given to each of the portable display devices allowed to be connected to the information server, in accordance with the electronic ticket information received from the portable display devices and transportation information concerning transportation of the vehicle that is stored in the information server.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The method set forth in claim 3, further comprising causing the information server to transmit the specified individual information to the portable display devices, in accordance with the respective private information for the portable display devices.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The method set forth in claim 3, further comprising: causing the information server to specify a time and/or geographical range, in which the information server can be used, with respect to each of the portable display devices allowed to be connected to the information server, in accordance with the electronic ticket information received from the portable display devices and the transportation information; and

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performing a specific process with respect to one or more of the portable display devices allowed to be connected to the information server when the one or more portable display devices are to be outside the time and/or geographical range in which the information server can be used.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The method set forth in claim 5, wherein the specific process is a process for transmitting information, which indicates that the time and/or geographical range in which the information server can be used is over, to the one or more portable display devices.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The method set forth in claim 3, further comprising: causing the information server to specify a time and/or geographical range in which users can use the vehicle, in accordance with the electronic ticket information received from the portable display devices allowed to be connected to the information server; and

causing the information server to inform the portable display devices allowed to be connected to the information server that the time and/or geographical range is over, when these portable display devices are to be outside the time and/or geographical range in which the vehicle can be used.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The method set forth in claim 2, further comprising causing the information server to perform an electric settlement via one or more of the portable display devices possessed by each user.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The method set forth in claim 3, further comprising: causing the information server to store information concerning a present time and/or a present position;

causing the information server to calculate a deviation which occurs in a transport time and/or a transport position of the vehicle, in accordance with the transportation information and the present time and/or the present position; and

causing the information server to rectify the transportation information in accordance with the deviation.

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Claim 10 (Currently Amended): An inside-vehicle information communication apparatus which is provided in a public transport vehicle whereby a passenger in the vehicle utilizes a portable display device to access an information service available inside the vehicle, the apparatus comprising:

a communication section for transmitting information to and receiving information from the portable display device possessed by the passenger of the vehicle; and

a managing section (a) for outputting a request for electronic ticket information to the portable display device possessed by the passenger, upon receipt of a request for connection from the portable display device, (b) for receiving the electronic ticket information via the communication section, (c) for confirming, based on the electronic ticket information, whether the passenger has a right to use the vehicle, (d) for allowing the portable display device possessed by the passenger to access information services provided by the inside-vehicle information communication apparatus if the managing section confirms that the passenger has the right to use the vehicle, and (e) for providing information to the portable display device in response to an information request received from the portable display device.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The inside-vehicle information communication apparatus set forth in claim 10, wherein:

the managing section outputs a request for private information to specify the portable display device allowed to be connected to the inside-vehicle information communication apparatus, and receives identification information outputted from the portable display device upon receipt of the request for the private information, and

the portable display device is specified in accordance with the identification information.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): An inside-vehicle information communication system by which a passenger of a public transport vehicle utilizes a portable display device to access an information service inside the vehicle, the system comprising:

an inside-vehicle information communication apparatus which is provided in the vehicle; and

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the portable display device possessed by the passenger of the vehicle,
the inside-vehicle information communication apparatus including: a communication section for transmitting information to and receiving information from the portable display device; and a managing section (a) for outputting a request for electronic ticket information to the portable display device possessed by the passenger, upon receipt of a request for connection from the portable display device, (b) for receiving the electronic ticket information via the communication section, (c) for confirming, based on the electronic ticket information, whether the passenger has the right to use the vehicle, (d) for allowing the portable display device to access information services provided by the inside-vehicle information communication apparatus in the vehicle if the managing section confirms that the passenger has the right to use the vehicle, and (e) for providing information to the portable display device in response to an information request received from the portable display device,

the portable display device including:

- (a) a radio section for transmitting information to and receiving information from the communication section of the inside-vehicle information communication apparatus;
- (b) a memory section for storing the electronic ticket information and private information;
- (c) a controlling section for controlling the radio section and the memory section; and
- (d) a display.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): An inside-vehicle information communication system by which a passenger of a public transport vehicle utilizes a portable display device devices to access an information service inside the vehicle, the system comprising:

- a vehicle for carrying passengers; and
- an inside-vehicle information communication apparatus which is provided in the vehicle, the inside-vehicle information communication apparatus including:
 - a communication section for transmitting information to and receiving information from the portable display device possessed by the passenger of the vehicle; and
 - a managing section (a) for outputting a request for electronic ticket information to the portable display device possessed by the passenger, upon receipt of a request for connection

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outputted from the portable display device, (b) for receiving the electronic ticket information via the communication section, (c) for confirming, based on the electronic ticket information, whether the passenger has the right to use the vehicle, (d) for allowing the portable display device to access information services provided by the inside-vehicle information communication apparatus if the managing section confirms that the passenger has the right to use the vehicle, and (e) for providing information to the portable display device in response to an information request received from the portable display device.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The inside-vehicle information communication system set forth in claim 12, further comprising a vehicle for carrying the passenger.

Claim 15 (Canceled).

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): An inside-vehicle information communication program, wherein an information server, provided in a public transport vehicle, is made to execute an inside-vehicle information communication method by which a passenger in the vehicle utilizes a portable display device to access an information service available inside the vehicle, the method comprising:

causing an information server, provided in the vehicle, to output a request for electronic ticket information to the portable display device possessed by the passenger of the vehicle, upon receipt of a request for connection from the portable display device;

causing the information server to receive the electronic ticket information, outputted from the portable display device upon receipt of the request for the electronic ticket information;

causing the information server to confirm, based on the electronic ticket information, whether the passenger has a right to use the vehicle and to allow the portable display device to access information services provided by the information server if the information server confirms that the passenger has the right to use the vehicle; and

causing the information server to provide information to the portable display device in response to an information request received from the portable display device.

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Claim 17 (Currently Amended): A recording medium, which stores an inside-vehicle information communication program for making an information server, provided in a public transport vehicle, execute an inside-vehicle information communication method by which a passenger in the vehicle utilizes a portable display device to access an information service available inside the vehicle, the method comprising:

causing an information server, provided in the vehicle, to output a request for electronic ticket information to the portable display device possessed by the passenger of the vehicle, upon receipt of a request for connection from the portable display device;

causing the information server to receive the electronic ticket information, outputted from the portable display device upon receipt of the request for the electronic ticket information;

causing the information server to confirm, based on the electronic ticket information, whether the passenger has a right to use the vehicle and to allow the portable display device to access information services provided by the information server in the vehicle if the information server confirms that the passenger has the right to use the vehicle; and

causing the information server to provide information to the portable display device in response to an information request received from the portable display device.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): A vehicle-provided communication network system, comprising an information server, provided in a public transport vehicle, and an information communication terminal display terminal, provided in the vehicle, for use by a passenger to access an information service available inside the vehicle, wherein:

the information communication display terminal comprises (a) a reading section for reading a first using condition to use the system from a first information recording medium in which the first using condition is recorded, and (b) a transmitting section for transmitting the first using condition, read by the reading section, to the information server; and

the information server comprises (a) a memory section for storing a second using condition to use the system, (b) a first checking section for checking the first using condition, transmitted from the transmitting section of the information communication display terminal, with the second using condition, stored in the memory section, and (c) a communication controlling section which enables the information communication display terminal to access

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information services provided by the information server, only in a case where the first checking section judges that the both the first and second using conditions are identical to each other.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): A vehicle-provided communication network system which performs information communication between an information server, provided in a public transport vehicle, and an information terminal, provided in the vehicle, for use by a passenger to access an information service available inside the vehicle, the information server comprising (a) an external communication section for performing information communication with an information communication apparatus outside the vehicle, and (b) a memory section for storing identification information of a portable display terminal connected to the information communication terminal; and

wherein the system further comprises:

a switching section for cutting off a connection between the portable display terminal and the information server so as to reconnect the portable display terminal to another portable display terminal, wherein the switching section cuts off the connection between the portable display terminal and the information server, after the information communication performed between the information server and the portable display terminal is finished, and reconnects the portable display terminal to the other portable display terminal ~~a relay section for performing a relay with respect to communication performed between the information communication apparatus and the portable display terminal, or receiving information transmitted from the information communication apparatus, instead of the portable display terminal, in a case where the external communication section receives information transmitted from the information communication apparatus to the portable display terminal, the information being the identification information stored in the memory section.~~

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The vehicle-provided communication network system set forth in claim 18, wherein:

the information server further includes:

an external communication section for performing information communication with an information communication apparatus outside the vehicle; and

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a storing section for storing information received via the external communication section from the information communication apparatus, before or after the information display terminal begins to access the information services provided by the information server, the information display terminal using the information stored in the storing section after the information display terminal begins to access the information services provided by the information server.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): The vehicle-provided communication network system set forth in claim 18, wherein the information server further includes:

an external communication section for performing information communication with an information communication apparatus outside the vehicle; and

means for forwarding information, processed by the information display terminal, via the external communication section to the information communication apparatus outside the vehicle.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): The vehicle-provided communication network system set forth in claim 20, wherein the information server includes assigning information registration means for registering assigning information to assign information, and obtains information assigned by the assigning information via the external communication section from the information communication apparatus outside the vehicle, after the information display terminal begins to access the information services provided by the information server.

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): An information recording medium issuing apparatus which issues a first information recording medium storing a using condition to use a vehicle-provided communication network system in which information communication is performed in a vehicle between an information server and an information display terminal, both located in the vehicle, and sets a first using condition to use the vehicle-provided communication network system and a second using condition to use the vehicle in advance, the information recording medium issuing apparatus comprising:

a third reading section for reading a third using condition from a second information recording medium in which the third using condition to use the vehicle is stored; a second reading section for reading the second using condition that has been set; a checking section for

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checking the second using condition, read by the second reading section, with the third using condition, read by the third reading section; a first reading section for reading the first using condition that has been set; and a recording section for recording the first using condition in the first information recording medium, wherein

said recording section records the first using condition in the first information recording medium, when the checking section judges that the second using condition is identical to the third using condition.

Claim 24 (Currently Amended): An information recording medium issuing apparatus which issues an information recording medium recording a using condition to use a vehicle-provided communication network system in which information communication is performed in a vehicle between an information server and an information display terminal, both located in the vehicle, and a using condition to use the vehicle, and sets a first using condition to use the vehicle-provided communication network system and a second using condition to use the vehicle in advance, the information recording medium issuing apparatus comprising:

an inputting outputting section for inputting outputting a third using condition to use the vehicle; a second reading section for reading the second using condition that has been set; a checking section for checking the second using condition read by the second reading section with the third using condition inputted outputted by said inputting outputting section; a first reading section for reading the first using condition that has been set; and a recording section for recording the first using condition, and the second using condition, in the information recording medium, wherein the recording section records the first using condition and the second using condition in the information recording medium, when the checking section judges that the second using condition is identical to the third using condition.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): The vehicle-provided communication network system set forth in claim 18, wherein the information server includes deleting means for deleting information, and the deleting means deletes information, that has been processed by the information display terminal, after the accessing of the information services, performed by the information display terminal, is finished.

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Claim 26 (Previously Presented): The vehicle-provided communication network system set forth in claim 25, wherein the information server includes an external communication section for performing information communication with an information communication apparatus outside the vehicle, and the external communication section forwards the information, that has been processed by the information display terminal, to the information communication apparatus outside the vehicle, before the deleting means deletes the information.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): The vehicle-provided communication network system set forth in claim 19, further comprising a switching section for cutting off a connection between the portable display terminal and the information server so as to reconnect the portable display terminal to another portable display terminal, wherein the switching section cuts off the connection between the portable display terminal and the information server, after the information communication performed between the information server and the portable display terminal is finished, and reconnects the portable display terminal to the other portable display terminal.

Claim 28 (Canceled).

Claim 29 (Currently Amended): The vehicle-provided communication network system set forth in claim 18 [[19]], further comprising deleting means for deleting the using condition or the identification information stored in the memory section, wherein the first information recording medium further stores information concerning a term of validity in which the first information recording medium can be used, and the deleting means deletes the using condition or the identification information stored in the memory section after the term of validity has passed.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): The vehicle-provided communication network system set forth in claim 18, further comprising environment setting means for setting an information communication environment, wherein the environment setting means sets a same

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information communication environment with respect to plural passengers of the vehicle, or sets the same information communication environment in accordance with the information recorded in the first information recording medium.

Claim 31 (Currently Amended): A vehicle-provided communication network system by which a passenger in a public transport vehicle utilizes an information display terminal to access an information service available inside the vehicle, the system comprising an information server, the information server including:

- a communication section for performing communication with an information display terminal in a vehicle;

- a memory section for storing a using condition to use the system;

- a first checking means for checking a using condition, received via the communication section from the information display terminal, with the using condition stored in the memory section; and

- a communication controlling section which enables the information display terminal to access information services provided by the information server only in a case where the first checking means judges that the both using conditions are identical to each other.

Claim 32 (Currently Amended): An inside-vehicle information communication method by which a passenger in a public transport vehicle utilizes a portable display device to access an information service available inside the vehicle, the method comprising:

- causing an information server, provided in a vehicle, to receive electronic ticket information outputted from the portable display device, possessed by the passenger of the vehicle, which outputs a request for connection to the information server;

- causing the information server to confirm, based on the electronic ticket information, whether the passenger has a right to use the vehicle and to allow the portable display device to access information services provided by the information server in the vehicle if the server confirms that the passenger has the right to use the vehicle; and

- causing the information server to provide information to the portable display device in response to an information request received from the portable display device.

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Claim 33 (Currently Amended): An inside-vehicle information communication apparatus which is provided in a public transport vehicle whereby a passenger in the vehicle utilizes a portable display device to access an information service available inside the vehicle, the apparatus comprising:

a communication section for transmitting information to and receiving information from the portable display device possessed by the passenger of the vehicle; and

a managing section for (a) receiving electronic ticket information, outputted from the portable display device which requests the inside-vehicle information communication apparatus to connect to the portable display device, via the communication section, (b) for confirming, based on the electronic ticket information, whether the passenger has a right to use the vehicle, (c) for allowing the portable display device to access information services provided by the inside-vehicle information communication apparatus if the managing section confirms that the passenger has the right to use the vehicle; and (d) for providing information to the portable display device in response to an information request received from the portable display device.

Claim 34 (Currently Amended): An in-vehicle information communication method for providing in-vehicle information communication capability to a passenger carrying onto a public transport [[the]] vehicle a portable information display terminal in which electronic ticket information is stored, the method comprising:

receiving at an information server on the vehicle the electronic ticket information of the portable information display terminal;

determining at the information server, based on a confirming operation involving the received electronic ticket information, whether to allow the portable information display terminal to access information services provided by the information server in the vehicle;

if the information server allows the portable information display terminal to access the information services in the vehicle, sending to the portable information display terminal, from the server, notification information for notifying the passenger that the portable information display terminal is connected to the information server and can access the information services; and

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if the information server allows the portable information display terminal to access the information services in the vehicle, sending to the portable information display terminal, from the information server, information that is responsive to an information request from the portable information display terminal.

Claim 35 (Currently Amended): An in-vehicle information communication method for providing in-vehicle information communication capability to a passenger of a public transport vehicle, the method comprising:

receiving at an information server, from an information display terminal on the vehicle, electronic ticket information for the passenger that is read from a storage medium carried onto the vehicle by the passenger;

determining at the information server, based on a confirming operation involving the received electronic ticket information, whether to allow the information display terminal to access information services provided by the information server in the vehicle;

if the information server allows the information display terminal to access the information services in the vehicle, sending to the information display terminal, from the information server, notification information notifying the passenger that the information display terminal is connected to the information server and can access the information services; and

if the information server allows the information display terminal to access the information services in the vehicle, sending to the information display terminal, from the information server, information that is responsive to an information request from the information display terminal.